











## 5.2.4. HYDROLOGICAL PROCESSES

One ESA, listed under the EP Act and the EPBC Act, the Fortescue Marsh, is located in a small portion of the Proposal Area (Figure 13). The Fortescue Marsh is also listed as a Nationally Important Wetland under the EPBC Act. It is described as an extensive, inland floodplain system that lies between the Hamersley and Chichester Ranges. The system is irregularly inundated and is fed by fresh surface water flows from the upper reaches of the Fortescue River, Kulkinbah Creek, Weeli Wolli Creek and other numerous short creeks emerging from the Hamersley gorges (DotE 2015).

The Proposal Area intersects approximately 165 ha of the total mapped extent of the Fortescue Marsh ESA (108,622 ha), being less than 1% of the whole wetland system. Based on the proposed disturbance of a 60m corridor along the length of the Proposal Area, the actual disturbance associated with the rail and access road (if required) will be no more than 22ha of the Fortescue Marsh ESA (<1%).

Other major surface water systems intersecting the Proposal Area include:

- Turner River
- Turner River East
- Yule River
- Coonarrie Creek
- Garden Creek
- Weeli Wolli Creek.

Surface water flows will not be impeded by the elevated nature of the BOTS structure. The substantial surface water systems listed above will correspond with medium to high type modules. Other flat sheet wash areas may be traversed by low type modules, however as these are still elevated, surface water flows will not be impeded.